

Innovation History at the U.S. Naval Academy

By **DON Innovation**

Task Force Innovation recognized the importance of leveraging the rich history of naval innovation and to use that history to both inspire and stimulate the creative thinking of our next generation of naval officers. In order to achieve the Secretary of the Navy's goal to foster a culture of innovation, two post-doctoral fellowships focused on the History of Naval Innovation were created at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

These Fellows will both instruct the History Department's survey American Naval History class, as well as teaching a more senior-level History of Naval Innovation course. The latter class will focus, in large measure, on the history of the sea services' use of data as an asset, of its adaptable employment of the military and civilian workforce, as well as their delivery of emergent operational capabilities to the Fleet. The U.S. Department of the Navy is pleased to announce the selection of the first two Innovation History Fellows.



The 2015 fellowship recipients are:

-Dr. Laurence Burke, a 2014 Ph.D. recipient from Carnegie-Mellon University, where his dissertation was entitled “ [What to Do with the Airplane? Determining the Role of the Airplane in the US Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, 1908-1925.](#)” Previously, he was the 2008-2009 Ramsey Fellow in Naval Aviation at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and a fellow at the West Point Summer Seminar in Military History. He received the General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. Memorial Dissertation Fellowship from the Marine Corps History Division, and the Robert L. Ruth and Robert C. Ruth Research Fellowship from the Army Historical Foundation.

-Dr. Nathan Packard, a 2015 Ph.D. recipient from Georgetown University, where his dissertation was entitled “ [The Marine Corps' Long March: Modernizing the Nation's Expeditionary Forces in the Aftermath of Vietnam, 1970-1991.](#)” His dissertation received the Society for Military History's 2015 First Manuscript Prize, as well as the General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. Memorial Dissertation Fellowship from the Marine Corps History Division. He is a United States Marine Corps Reserve officer, who has also taught for the U.S. Naval War College.

The two scholars will begin to teach at the Naval Academy for the academic year beginning in August 2015, and the positions are renewable for a second school year.

The Department of the Navy, and the Naval Academy History Department, join in congratulating



Professors Burke and Packard. They will be offering crucial and exciting educational opportunities, as well as developing important ideas for use by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. These two junior faculty members will open up the subject of naval innovation for midshipmen, the naval leaders who must confront the maritime and security challenges of the next 30 years of the twenty-first century. In addition, these two post-doctoral fellows will have the chance to explore and develop further insights in the history of naval innovation for the sea services. Both these aims will

yield important evidence and examples of how the sea services have protected the United States, and offer thought on how they might do so in future.